AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the application.

1.    (currently amended)  An data structure for an asset management system stored in a data store, the asset including a plurality of physical items contained in the asset and defined in the data store, the structure comprising:

at least a one item type first item specification template for collecting information from a user defining for a subset of physical items a plurality of data fields characterizing the definition for anthe item type; and

at least one specification for each physical item, the specification comprising a plurality of data values comprising a specification for at least one item, the values provided in the plurality of data fields describing the itemdefining the item type, said data fields including:

at least one attribute value characterizing the item; and

at least one component value associating the at least one item type with a second item specificationtype.

2.    (original) The data structure of claim 1 wherein the attribute comprises one of a group consisting of the following: a physical attribute of the item; and a functional attribute of the item.

3.    (original)  The data structure of claim 1 wherein the specification further includes a virtual area association.

4.    (original)  The data structure of claim 1 further including an item type data structure, including attribute definitions and component definitions.

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5.      (original)  The data structure of claim 1 further including at least one history tracking field identifying changes to data in said other fields.

6.      (original)  The data structure of claim 5 wherein said history tracking field is updated based on a publication process.

7.      (original)  The data structure of claim 1 further including an item type defining said data fields for at least one item specification.

8.      (original)  The data structure of claim 1 further including a schedule definition comprising at least one specification.

9.      (currently amended)  A method for constructing data concerning item specifications in a system for managing an asset, the asset including a plurality of items, comprising:

providing a user data entry interface;

defining at least one item ~~specification~~ type template comprising a plurality of data fields ~~for collecting information from~~ provided by a user to describe one of said items;

receiving a plurality of data values for each of said plurality of items, each value being provided into a data field of said at least one ~~specification~~ type template on the interface, wherein the plurality of data values for each item comprise a specification for ~~an~~ said item and each data field of the specification describes an attribute of the item and at least one component value associating the at least one item specification with a second item type; and

storing the specification into a database on a computer system.

10.      (original)  The method of claim 9 wherein the attribute being one of a group consisting of the following: a physical attribute of the item; and a functional attribute of the item.

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11.    (original)  The method of claim 9 wherein the method further includes:

storing an item object in the database;

creating a relationship between the item object and the specification;

storing the relationship in the database.

12.    (original)  The method of claim 9 wherein said step of providing occurs on a first computer and said step of storing occurs on a second computer.

13.    (original)  The method of claim 12 wherein said step or providing includes providing said user data entry interface to a first computer and said step of receiving occurs on a second computer, and said first and second computers are coupled by a network.

14.    (original)  The method of claim 13 wherein said network is the Internet.

15.    (previously presented)  The method of claim 9 wherein said step of providing comprises providing a template creation tool.

16.    (original)  The method of claim 15 wherein said step of providing comprises providing a specification creation tool.

17.    (original)  The method of claim 15 wherein said step of providing comprises providing a specification management tool

18.    (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of receiving comprises: receiving said data values into one or more templates to create one or more specifications.

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19.    (original) The method of claim 18 wherein said step of defining said template comprises:

receiving general properties information; and

receiving attribute information.


20.    (original)  The method of claim 19 wherein said step of defining further includes receiving component information.


21.    (original)  The method of claim 18 wherein said step of defining further includes receiving preferences information.


22.    (original)  The method of claim 9 wherein said receiving step includes defining a configurable data object by performing at least one of a group consisting of the following:

defining the configurable data object;

adding an attribute to the configurable data object;

modifying an attribute of the configurable data object; and

removing an attribute from the configurable data object.


23.    (original)  The method of claim 9 wherein the method includes the sub-step of configuring a configurable data object.


24.    (original)  The method of claim 9 wherein the configurable data object comprises a specification for the item.


25.    (original)  The method of claim 9 wherein the steps of providing and receiving are performed on a computer coupled to a network.


26.    (original)  The method of claim 25 wherein the network is the Internet.


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27.    (original) The method of claim 25 wherein the step of receiving is performed by receiving data from an item management application provided as part of the data entry interface.

28.    (currently amended) A method of allowing users to manage an asset, the asset including a plurality of items having features and attributes, comprising:

(a)    providing an application server coupled to a network;

(b)    providing, responsive to a client request, an item specification management toolset including at least one template definition application;

(c)    providing at least one item type template for collecting information from a user including a plurality of data fields describing an item; and

(d)    receiving data from the client including at attribute value characterizing the item and at least one component value associating the at least one item type with a second item type for at least one item and storing said values in a database.

29.    (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an item specification publisher.

30.    (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an item specification schedule builder.

31.    (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an attribute manager.

32.    (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing a component manager.

33.    (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an item specification creation wizard.

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34. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said step (c) comprises:

receiving data from the item specification management toolset including one of at least attribute data or component data.


35. (currently amended) A system for defining and managing an asset, the asset including a plurality of items associated with the asset, comprising:

a data store for item specification data provided on a host computer coupled to a network, each item specification including for one of the plurality of items at least one attribute value characterizing the item and at least one component value associating the item type with a second item type;

at least one item type template for collecting information from a user provided on the host computer, the template including a plurality of data fields; and

a data input toolset comprising at least an item specification creation tool, item type manager and an item specification manager.


36. (original) The system of claim 35 further including an item specification publisher.


37. (original) The system of claim 35 further including an item specification schedule builder.


38. (original) The system of claim 35 wherein the item type manager includes an attribute manager.


39. (original) The system of claim 35 wherein the item type manage includes a component manager.


40. (cancelled).

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41. (original) The system of claim 35 wherein the data store and the data input toolset are provided on the host computer.

42. (original) The system of claim 35 wherein the data store is provided on the host computer and the data input toolset is provided to a second, client computer.

43. (original) The system of claim 35 wherein the toolset is provided by an applications server computer.

44. (original) The system of claim 42 wherein the host computer is coupled to the Internet and the data input toolset is provided to a client computer via the Internet.

45. (original) The system of claim 42 wherein the host computer is coupled to the Internet and the data store is accessible by a plurality of clients via the Internet.

46. (original) The system of claim 35 further including a specification reference tracking facility.

47. (original) The system of claim 35 further including a linking facility allowing project participants to link project areas to item specification data.

48. (original) The system of claim 35 further including a permissions facility regulating the actions of project participants with respect to item specification data in the data store.

49. (original) The system of claim 35 further including an approval routing tool based on a publication of at least one item specification.

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50.     (original)  The system of claim 35 further including a notification tool linked to specific actions affecting data in the data store and providing notifications to project participants when specific actions occur as defined by a user set business rules.

51.     (original)  The system of claim 35 further including a history tracking system tracking changes to data in the data store.

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